

From: Brian Satterfield
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/15/02 3:57pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear DOJ,

It all comes down to choices.

I am a software engineer and have worked with computers for the last 6 years. My parents have recently started using computers and it has become obvious to me just how strong the Micro\$oft hold is on the industry.

It is my belief that the proposed settlement will do nothing to curtail Micro\$oft's actions, growth or domination of the industry and market. I believe that Micro\$oft will easily find ways to skirt the edges of the settlement and still be in accordance. They will integrate their applications more closely with the OS so that they are indistinguishable and therefore impossible to separate. I agree with Attorney General Thomas F. Reilly

"Five minutes after any agreement is signed with Microsoft, they'll be thinking of how to violate the agreement. They're predators. They crush their competition. They crush new ideas. They stifle innovation. That's what they do."

I agree heavily with Matthew Szulik's comments to the Senate and feel that the government needs to step in and stop the wave of Micro\$oft domination. One way would be to ban all use of commercial operating systems on government resources. Another would be to mandate that for the next so many years they will spend money on hardware for every school district in the nation. Red Hat software corporation has made the following offer (amendments to the DOJ PFJ and I agree with it completely:

Microsoft redirects the value of their proposed software donation to the purchase of additional hardware for the school districts. This would increase the number of computers available under the original proposal from 200,000 to more than one million, and would increase the number of systems per school from approximately 14 to at least 70.

Red Hat, Inc. will provide free of charge the open-source Red Hat Linux operating system, office applications and associated capabilities to any school system in the United States.

Red Hat will provide online support for the software through the Red Hat Network.

Unlike the Microsoft proposal, which has a five-year time limit at which point schools would have to pay Microsoft to renew their licenses and upgrade the software, the Red Hat proposal has no time limit. Red Hat will provide software upgrades through the Red Hat Network online distribution channel.

I hope the DOJ can see that the injustice done to Micro\$oft's competition and to the Open Source community needs to be dealt with in a heavy manner.

Brian Satterfield
Engineer - Lockheed Martin

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